

JAMES M. SIMERAL.

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JANUARY 8, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. ANDREWS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2605.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2605) granting an increase of pension to James M. Simeral, having considered the same, respectfully report:

It is shown by the records of the War Department that the said James M. Simeral was mustered into the service on June 13, 1861, as orderly sergeant of Company B, First Iowa Cavalry, at Burlington, Iowa. He was elected second lieutenant of Company L, same regiment, September 24, 1861, and first lieutenant of same company in February, 1863. On the muster rolls of that regiment to April 30, 1863, he is reported "present." Subsequent rolls to February 29, 1864, show he was "absent on detached service as assistant commissary of musters, in Third Division, Army of the Frontier." Subsequent rolls to October 31, 1864, "absent with detachment, First Iowa Cavalry, Seventh Army Corps." Detachment rolls from March to October 31, 1864, show him "present, commanding detachment." The roll of the company for November and December, 1864, "present." January and February, 1865, "absent on veteran furlough." Subsequent rolls to August 31, 1865, "absent on detached service at Columbus, Ohio." Roll for September and October, 1865, "present." November and December, 1864, "present." So reported on return for January, 1866.

He was mustered out with the company February 15, 1866, having served four years eight months and two days. The record shows Lieutenant Simeral in the field, having served in every battle fought by General Steel on the Red River expedition, and, on his retreat, was in command of the scouting force on both sides of the retreating army, having skirmishes every day. In October, 1862, according to his affidavit, at the battle of McGuire's Ford, Arkansas, his horse fell upon him, injuring his right leg. On December 7, at the battle of Prairie Grove, his horse was shot from under him, falling on his right leg and injuring him severely. From these injuries resulted varicose veins of right leg, forming the basis for a claim for pension, which was granted in 1886. The board of examining physicians found in his case that he was entitled to a six-eightieths rating for the disability caused by varicose veins of right leg and two-eightieths for that caused by varicose veins of the left leg.

In his original examination, on the 18th of August, 1886, they found that he was entitled to a half-total rating for the disability caused by varicose veins, but reported nothing for that caused by general debility. In 1890, on his reexamination for increase, the examining board advanced his disability two-eighteenths, which gave him his present pension of \$12 per month. Since 1890 the infirmities of the said James M. Simeral have increased to such an extent that he has chronic rheumatism in left arm and both legs, in addition to varicose veins. Said James M. Simeral is now in his seventy-fourth year, and wholly dependent upon his relatives.

Your committee therefore believe this case to be a meritorious one, and recommend the bill for passage.

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